



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 743
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
<http://lachildrenscommission.org>**

Monday, March 4, 2013

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (13-1210)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Present: Chair Geneva Berger, Vice Chair Helen Kleinberg,
Commissioner Carol O. Biondi, Commissioner Patricia Curry,
Commissioner Ann E. Franzen, Commissioner Daphne Ng,
Commissioner Steven M. Olivas Esq., Commissioner Adelina
Sorkin LCSW/ACSW and Commissioner Martha Trevino-Powell

Excused: Vice Chair Susan F. Friedman, Commissioner Dr. Sunny Kang,
Commissioner Dr. La-Doris McClaney and Commissioner Sandra
Rudnick

Call to Order. (13-0817)

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Introduction of March 4, 2013 Meeting attendees. (13-0818)

Self-Introductions were made.

2. Approval of the March 4, 2013 Meeting Agenda. (13-0819)

On motion of Vice Chair Helen Kleinberg, seconded by Commissioner Daphne Ng, unanimously carried, (Vice Chair Friedman, Commissioners Kang, McClaney, and Rudnick being absent), this item was approved. Commissioner Olivas was not present during vote taken for this item.

3. Approval of the minutes from the Meeting of February 4, 2013. (13-0820)

On motion of Commissioner Adelina Sorkin LCSW/ACSW, seconded by Vice Chair Helen Kleinberg, unanimously carried, (Vice Chair Friedman, Commissioners Kang, McClaney, and Rudnick being absent), this item was approved. Commissioner Olivas was not present during vote taken for this item.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

4. Chair's report for March 4, 2013 by Genevra Berger, Chair. (13-0821)

Chair Berger reported the following:

- **The Statement of Economic Interests, Form 700 is due on April 2, 2013. Commissioners may contact staff if they have any questions.**
- **A New Commissioner's Orientation is scheduled for Thursday, March 21, 2013, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 739, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles.**
- **The motion by Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas regarding the 241.1 Crossover Youth Project ([Item 9 of 3/5/13 Board of Supervisors Agenda](#)) has been continued to March 12, 2013.**
- **Commission Services Division Chief Angie Johnson has been reassigned; the new Acting Division Chief will be Twila Kerr and Acting Assistant Division Chief will be N'nette Williams effective April, 1, 2013.**

Commissioner Curry suggested sending Ms. Johnson a thank you note.

By common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

Agenda Item 5 was taken after Agenda Item 6.

5. DCFS Director's report for March 4, 2013 by Philip Browning, Director, DCFS. (13-0822)

Director Browning introduced the new DCFS Chief Deputy Director, Fesia Davenport.

Ms. Davenport provided a brief background of her County history and explained that a great deal of her experience involved developing policies within the County's Child Support Services Department.

Director Browning reported the following:

- **Ms. Davenport's position will be supervising many of the DCFS budget, finance, contract and administrative functions and regional operations. In addition, she will be involved in the rewriting of the DCFS Policy Manual as well assisting in the process of redesigning the role between DCFS and universities who provide training for social workers.**
- **A Strategic Plan objective is being added to address the younger population being serviced by DCFS.**

The Commission shared their experiences participating on the DCFS Strategic Plan Objective Teams and suggested that subject-matter experts speak to the teams to provide expert knowledge surrounding the topics that the objective teams are charged with to better equip teams members with varying levels of knowledge. Additionally, some Commissioners expressed concern with the hypothesis methodology being used in the team meetings.

In response to comments provided by the Commission, Director Browning responded with the following:

- **One of the objectives of the strategic plan is to upgrade staff. At some point, there will be a regrouping of the teams to assess the progress that has been made; Ms. Davenport will be an asset in assisting with this progression.**
- **Strategic Plan Teams should request data needed from within DCFS to move forward on their respective strategies. DCFS has much of this data available; however, some data may need program development in order to extract the data.**
- **Subject-matter experts are allowed to provide input to the Strategic Plan Teams; however, are not allowed to be a member of the Team, as this may preclude them from bidding on contracts with DCFS.**
- **Title IV-E funds from the five-year savings were put into DCFS Programs. This funding was available this past year; however, is no longer available.**

Carol Kitter, Children's Law Center, addressed the Commission offering resources on crossover youth issues that may be helpful with the DCFS Strategic Planning.

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

III. PRESENTATION

6. Current County Efforts to prevent youth from crossing over to juvenile delinquent status.

- Dr. Hellen J. Carter, Chief, Juvenile Fields Services Bureau, Probation
- Dr. Sharon G. Watson, Education Coordinating Council (ECC) (13-0952)

Dr. Watson distributed presentation material titled, “Executive Summary; a report from the School Attendance Task Force (SATF)” and reported the following:

- **In 2010, Judge Michael Nash initiated the School Attendance Task Force (SATF), originally the Truancy Task Force in an effort to reduce the number of youth receiving citations and being put through the juvenile court system. SATF was a collaborative effort between the school districts, law enforcement, County agencies and community based organizations to develop a comprehensive strategy for countywide implementation.**
- **The SATF Executive Summary includes a list of recommendations by the SATF. The recommendations have undergone implementation in the past year and a half. As a result of the recommendations, Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) issued directives instructing ticketing forces to not cite students on their way to school or on school campuses. Los Angeles School Police Department (LASPD) followed this lead and issued directives in line with LAPD and the recommendations of SATF. The City of Los Angeles’ municipal code was changed to reflect the directives. LASPD has since reported a 40 percent reduction in truancy citations.**
- **Judge Michael Nash implemented reform with the Informal Juvenile Traffic Court (IJTC) practices with respect to truancy and fines. Families are provided the option of community service to lessen the burden of fines. In June of 2012, the IJTC’s were closed as a result of State budget cuts. The Community Development Department (CDD), in collaboration with Los Angeles Unified School District, has developed Youth WorkSource Centers that will serve as an alternative to daytime curfew citations in Los Angeles.**
- **Judge Donna Groman, member of the SATF was concerned with minor offenses occurring on school campuses being more appropriately**

handled at the school level than at the juvenile court level. Addressing concerns on a national level, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges under its taskforce introduced a resolution on schools taking more responsibility in terms of handling minor offenses at the school level while not undermining safety. Judge Michael Nash in his capacity as President of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges sent a letter to Vice President Biden urging Federal support of the taskforce's resolution.

Additionally, the School-based Arrest Reform Partnership was formed in September of 2012 to evaluate the protocol of school arrests through a collaborative of various County, City, and community representatives.

- Research shows a positive correlation between police presence on campus and school violence and dropout rates and supports school-based rather than law enforcement-based interventions for improving attendance.

In response to questions posed by the Commission, Dr. Watson responded with the following:

- SATF recommendations include all school ages of youth. The ninth grade shows the highest rate of truancy, with kindergarten the second highest.
- A technical manual incorporating best practices for implementing SATF recommendations will be distributed to the school districts upon approval by the SATF.

Dr. Carter provided a PowerPoint presentation and reported the following:

- The Probation Department's Citation Diversion Program (Diversion Program) is a collaboration of juvenile court, law enforcement agencies, schools, attorneys, and community-based organizations.
- The Probation Department (Probation) primarily receives citation and misdemeanor referrals from law enforcement, schools, and the State Department of Fish and Wildlife, formerly, State Department of Fish and Game.
- The process of the Diversion Program includes reviewing each case to determine the risk factor of the juvenile and which service program is most suited for the case. Additionally, the juvenile is cross referenced through the DCFS system in order to have a comprehensive understanding of the juvenile's issues and to determine how to best serve the youth.

- Juvenile infractions may be diverted with a letter of warning and community work hours or by referral to appropriate services (i.e. Mental Health Services, or with a community referral which includes: police, school, DCFS, and/or Department of Mental Health (DMH). However, the challenge is that in many cases, juveniles that are referred to DMH do not meet the eligibility criteria to receive mental health services.
- Probation is in the process of seeking out grants for funding juvenile probation diversion services.

Commissioner Curry asked Dr. Carter to provide the Commission a list of diversion services needed in order for the Commission to advocate for these services.

- Juvenile misdemeanors may be diverted through a community based program, or when deemed necessary, referred to Probation's Behavior Change Program, a program led by four Deputy Probation Officers. The Behavior Change Program can be completed at a cost of \$14.75 per youth. An estimated 12,000 juveniles are expected to be referred to this program.
- The goal of the Diversion Program is to keep youth out of the juvenile court system. Part of the Diversion Program includes working with law enforcement agencies, with the highest citation referrals, and exploring the services available in the area to prevent these citations. Additionally, effects of citations in minority populations are examined, as well as the available resources in low socio-economic areas versus higher socio-economic areas. Probation is currently looking for funding sources for families with limited resources.
- The top six referring offenses are; 1) fare evasion, 2) curfew violations, 3) possession of tobacco, 4) fighting, 5) petty theft, and 6) loitering.
- Currently, Probation needs data entry clerks for the Diversion Program to expedite entering referrals into the system in order to assist in meeting the goal of diverting juvenile citations to community based programs within 48 hours. Juvenile citation referrals are kept in a separate listing and not entered into the Probation Case Management System. Upon successful completion of the Diversion Program, the juvenile is removed from the listing having no future ramification of being ineligible to join the military, qualifying for the "Dream Act," or disqualified from gaining certain employment.

Jacqueline Caster, Founder and President of the Everychild Foundation reported the following:

- **Everychild Foundation is a non-profit organization comprised of 200 women in Los Angeles who each donate \$5,000 annually. Donations totaling \$1 million are granted to one local children's cause each year with a dream project. Each project must be innovative and sustainable over time.**
- **In 2011, Centinela Youth Services was selected to receive the \$1 million grant for a diversion program at the Inglewood Courthouse to meet the needs of judges seeking an alternative to the juvenile justice system.**
- **After requesting that a diversion program be implemented with LAPD similar to the successful juvenile diversion program instituted in Miami-Dade County, Florida, LAPD Chief Charlie Beck agreed to implement a pilot program. Following discussions between the LAPD, Probation, DCFS, Offices of the Los Angeles County Public Defender and District Attorney, it was determined that South Los Angeles would be the appropriate location to implement the pilot program. The pilot program is being funded by a federal grant and is currently pending Chief Beck's signed authorization of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Once, the MOU is signed the pilot will launch.**
- **The pilot is a case management program that includes a full mental health assessment to determine the services needed. Completion of the six-month program will prevent juveniles from entering the Probation system.**

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

IV. WORKGROUP UPDATE

- 7. Commission for Children and Families Mental Health Workgroup update on Transitional Housing:**

- **Patricia Curry, Commissioner (13-0999)**

By common consent, there being no objection this item was continued to the next meeting.

V. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

8. Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Commission, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (13-0823)

There were none.

Announcements

9. Announcements for the meeting of March 4, 2013. (13-0824)

Chair Berger announced that First District Supervisor Gloria Molina's Father, Leonardo Molina recently passed away. The Commission expressed their condolences.

Public Comment

10. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (13-0825)

No members of the public addressed the Commission.

Adjournment

11. Adjournment of the meeting of March 4, 2013. (13-0826)

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.